

Greenways and Trails Tidbits

February 2007 Edition

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)- February, 2007

The Heritage Conversation Trust Fund Board wants to remind organizations that March 15, 2007 is the pre-application deadline. The Trust Fund made its first round of grants in November, 2006 for eight projects totaling over 15,000 acres across Tennessee. Emphasizing projects that involve partnerships, these eight grants totaling \$10.3 million will protect land valued at \$21 million. Go to: <http://www.tdec.net/news/release/2007/Feb/hctfgrant.shtml> to see the press release.

Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT) September 15 – 22, 2007 Go to: <http://www.tnstateparks.com/BRAT/>

Welcome to the 18th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (**BRAT**). The 2007 BRAT will begin at the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville, TN with rider's vehicles stored at Long Hunter State Park. This year's ride will take in five State Parks and will travel through the hills and hollows of middle Tennessee. The Tennessee State Parks and the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) sponsor the 2007 BRAT. Part of the proceeds from this year's event will go directly to the Cumberland Trail Conference. The CTC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the creation and preservation of the Cumberland Trail State Park. For more information and on line registration, go to the website or call Gary Patterson at 931-686-BIKE.

2007 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards, Go to: www.tdec.net/awards .

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2007 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards, and I am asking you to draw on your knowledge to help us identify those organizations and individuals taking action to improve the quality of land, air and water in Tennessee.

Award winners will be selected for the following categories this year: Aquatic Resource Preservation, Agriculture/Forestry Stewardship, Building Green, Energy Leadership, Environmental Education & Outreach, Green Schools (K-12 and Higher Education), Greenways & Trails, Hazardous Waste Reduction (Small and Large Businesses), Lifetime Achievement, Natural Heritage Conservation, Parks and Recreation, Pollution Prevention.

Information regarding eligibility requirements, judging criteria and nomination forms are available on the Awards Web page at www.tdec.net/awards. The deadline for nominations is **March 31, 2007**, and winners will be announced by May 2007. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Glapa at 615-253-8780 or Kathy.glapa@state.tn.us .

American Hiking Society <http://www.americanhiking.org/>

Put **June 2, 2007** on your calendar and join thousands of trail volunteers across the nation participating in trail construction, trail maintenance, trail awareness or enjoying the health and fitness benefits of getting on the trail in the event called **National Trails Day (NTD)**.

Go to the NTD website: <http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html> to register your event and get your free promotional materials or to find an event happening near you!

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Tennessee Trails Association (TTA) <http://www.tennesseetrails.org/index.php>

The TTA Board of Directors, in their February 2007 meeting, approved the 5 trail related grants totaling \$2,447.29 in the Evan Means Small Grants award program. Volunteer based, non-profit organizations, working alone or through public agencies, are eligible to apply for the Evan Means Small Grants. The small grant program was established in February 1999 to honor Evan Means – journalist, author, conservationist, hiker, trail builder, originator of the Cumberland Trail, and co-founder of the Tennessee Trail Association. For more information on TTA, go to their website.

Tennessee Department of Transportation www.tdot.state.tn.us

The Safe Routes to Schools Program grant application deadline is March 15, 2007. The program is designed to promote walking and bicycling to school targeting grades K-8. Grants are 100% Federal Funds and the maximum grant is \$250,000 per school. Local government, local government commissions (school boards) and state agencies are eligible to apply for these grants.

Go to: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm> for more information about the program and a copy of the grant application.

Greening Greater Memphis, www.GreeningGreaterMemphis.org

The February 8, 2007 “Greening Greater Memphis Event” was an overwhelming success with 1,000 supporters filling the 500-seat Harden Hall. Mayor Herenton pledged to build Memphis’s 22 mile long Wolf River Greenway trail. The Wolf River trail will connect downtown Memphis with Germantown and Collierville as well as connecting Shelby Farms by way of the Greater Memphis Greenline. Go to www.wolfriver.org and www.greatermemphisgreenline.org for more information.

American Hiking Society <http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai/festival.html>

The American Hiking Society’s Southern Appalachians Alliance of Hiking Organizations website provides information on what is going on in the Southeast. The Great Southeastern Hiking Festival Conference will be May 3-6, 2007 in Montreat, North Carolina. There will be a free Public Festival on Saturday, May 5, 2007 in downtown Black Mountain, NC.

Go to the website listed above for more information on the Festival or contact Jeffrey Hunter at 423-266-2507.

International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) www.imba.com

The IMBA Tennessee affiliate group, SORBA, dedicated 5 miles of newly completed mountain bike trails on the Raccoon Mountain project, part of the Chattanooga 2010 project to add 100 miles of new mountain bike trails by 2010. Other exciting opportunities in the Chattanooga area include Enterprise South. Go to <http://www.sorbachattanooga.org/index.php?source=advocacy> to find out more about SORBA.

Go to: <http://www.sorbachattanooga.org/trails/trails.php?state=8&trail=367> to check out their trail directory, an interactive trail guide for mountain bike trails throughout the State of Tennessee.

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The USDA Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC)
<http://www.fs.fed.us/eng/techdev/mtdc.htm>

For the latest in trail development research, see the USDA Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) website.

Federal Highway Administration <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails>

Go to this website to find out more information about the Recreational Trail Program.

Another website to go to: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/equip/> to see the latest in trail construction equipment.

American Trails <http://americantrails.org>

Need training for trail layout, construction or on the Universal Trail Assessment Program (UTAP). Check out the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP) at <http://americantrails.org/nttp/default>. The NTTP provides a comprehensive calendar showing available training opportunities. If you don't see what you need, contact NTTP and see if one can be set up.

American Trails <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/index.html>

Do you need information about accessible trails and whether your trail meets the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) specifications? This is the website that has the answers to your questions.

Go to: <http://www.access-board.gov/po1.cfm> to print out copies of the technical guidelines for ADA compliance for different facilities.

UPCOMING DATES TO BE AWARE OF:

March, 2007 **Look for a Greenways and Trail survey on the TDEC-RES Web site in mid-March and provide your input into the new Greenways and Trails Plan.**

March 15, 2007 **TDOT – Safe Routes to Schools grant application deadline.**
See article above for program information

March 22-25, 2007 **National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council Conference**
Charleston, WV. Featuring Hatfield/McCoy Trails

March 31, 2007 **Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award application deadline.**
Go to <http://www.tdec.net/awards> for more information.

April 17-18, 2007 **TN Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) Conference**
Chattanooga, TN www.tngic.org

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| May 3-6, 2007 | GREAT SOUTHEASTERN HIKING FESTIVAL, Montreat, NC
http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai/festival.html |
| June 2, 2007 | NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Start planning your Event NOW.
Go to http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/ to register your event. |
| July 19-21, 2007 | SOUTHEAST EQUESTRIAN TRAILS CONFERENCE
“Tomorrow’s Horse Trails Depend on You”. Go to:
www.southeasternequestriantrails.com |

Information provided in this newsletter is taken from other sources and it is recommended that you go to those sources directly for complete information about an activity or event.



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327157, 512 copies.
This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.15 per copy. August 2005.

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